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HOUSE MEMORIAL 73

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009**

INTRODUCED BY

Jim R. Trujillo

A MEMORIAL

DESIGNATING MARCH 5, 2009 AS "ST. MICHAEL'S HIGH SCHOOL 150TH ANNIVERSARY DAY" AT THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, in the summer of 1859, New Mexico Archbishop Lamy request the Christian Brothers from France to come to Santa Fe to open a school for boys; and

WHEREAS, Brothers Hilarien, Gondulph, Geramius and Galmier Joseph arrived in the early afternoon of October 27, and they set to work immediately to open a school on Old Santa Fe Trail, in an adobe hut next to the San Miguel Mission; and

WHEREAS, just two weeks later, the school opened its doors and the first boarding students arrived on November 9, with classes beginning on November 22, 1859; and

WHEREAS, eleven years later, amid difficult financial times, Brother Botulph Schneider arrived in Santa Fe to

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1 motivate and direct the Brothers and students, bringing his  
2 spirit of joy and enthusiasm to his co-laborers as he began to  
3 raise money for upgrading and developing St. Michael's; and

4 WHEREAS, during Brother Botulph Schneider's thirty-six-  
5 year tenure as director of the school, structures were expanded  
6 and the academic reputation of the school grew; and

7 WHEREAS, two of the structures remaining from this period  
8 of St. Michael's development are the existing Lamy Building and  
9 the Lew Wallace Building; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1876, St. Michael's conferred diplomas upon  
11 its first graduates; and

12 WHEREAS, in 1926, a fire destroyed the tower and upper  
13 story of the school, and the damage was so extensive, and so  
14 expensive to repair, that St. Michael's faced closure; and

15 WHEREAS, the school's director, Brother August, was  
16 walking downtown, contemplating the fate of the school, when he  
17 encountered Miguel Chavez, an alumnus and successful  
18 businessman who decided to finance the rebuilding of the  
19 school; and

20 WHEREAS, the St. Michael's community continued to grow  
21 over the next five decades, and by the 1960s, it had outgrown  
22 its location on Old Santa Fe Trail, and in 1967, St. Michael's  
23 moved to its current Siringo Road location; and

24 WHEREAS, the school became co-educational in 1968, after  
25 the closing of Loretto Academy; and

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1           WHEREAS, in the 1990s, science laboratories and new  
2 classrooms were added to St. Michael's and the Tipton Sports  
3 Center was completed; and

4           WHEREAS, another new building was added in the first years  
5 of the new century, as were new classrooms, offices and  
6 improvements to the athletic fields; and

7           WHEREAS, a statue of St. John Baptist de la Salle was  
8 recently installed at the school's front entrance; and

9           WHEREAS, St. John Baptist de la Salle founded the  
10 Institute of the Brothers of the Christian Schools in 1680 in  
11 Rheims, France, and, although he was a son of wealth and  
12 privilege, de la Salle joined the priesthood and became  
13 committed to educating the children of the poor and of the  
14 working class, training and organizing, over time, a group of  
15 men to live in community and conduct the schools, and these men  
16 were brothers to each other and older brothers to their younger  
17 charges; and

18           WHEREAS, the core principles of a LaSallian school are:  
19 faith in the presence of God; respect for all persons; quality  
20 education; concern for the poor and social justice; and a  
21 united community where diversity is respected; and

22           WHEREAS, the mission statement of St. Michael's High  
23 School, with a college preparatory curriculum, is to educate  
24 every student in a spirit of faith and academic excellence  
25 according to Roman Catholic principles in the LaSallian

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1 tradition of the Christian Brothers; and

2 WHEREAS, the one hundred fiftieth anniversary celebration  
3 begins on March 5, 2009, as this memorial is read; and

4 WHEREAS, April 30, 2009 will be dedicated to the founders  
5 of St. Michael's High School with a celebration and mass  
6 presided over by Archbishop Sheehan and a reception dinner to  
7 follow; and

8 WHEREAS, the celebration continues with a sports  
9 achievement event that honors St. Michael's long and successful  
10 athletic reputation; and

11 WHEREAS, all of Santa Fe will be invited for Community Day  
12 on September 27, 2009, when St. Michael's one hundred fiftieth  
13 anniversary will be celebrated with the community, and this  
14 event will be celebrated in conjunction with the San Miguel  
15 Fiesta and will feature tours, games and visual and performing  
16 arts; and

17 WHEREAS, an all-class reunion and gala will take place  
18 over the weekend of October 9 through 11, 2009; and

19 WHEREAS, on Sunday, October 11, 2009, a mass at the St.  
20 Francis Cathedral Basilica will take place to honor the one  
21 hundred fiftieth anniversary celebration;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
23 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that March 5, 2009  
24 be declared "St. Michael's High School 150th Anniversary Day"  
25 at the house of representatives and that congratulations be

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1 expressed to the Christian Brothers, students, alumni, staff  
2 and faculty, past and present, and that gratitude be expressed  
3 to LaSallian Brothers throughout the world for their commitment  
4 to educate all; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the entire St. Michael's  
6 community and alumni throughout Santa Fe, the state of New  
7 Mexico, the United States and the world are invited to attend  
8 and are encouraged to participate in all of the activities to  
9 commemorate this occasion; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
11 transmitted to the Christian Brothers; the St. Michael's High  
12 School board of trustees, students, alumni, staff and faculty;  
13 the archdiocese of Santa Fe; the mayor and city council of the  
14 city of Santa Fe; and the Santa Fe county commissioners.

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